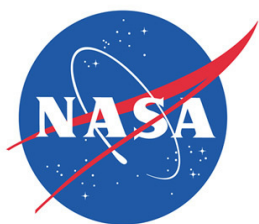


Student spends summer interning at NASA. Pg. 4



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Dordt College

13 September 2012

Issue 1

Tuition goes up five percent for 2012-2013 academic year

Kelly Zatlin
Head Editor

Many returning Dordt students have noticed a five percent increase in their tuition for the 2012-2013 school year, but aren't aware of the exact reasons for it.

Senior Cady Millage, who figured the increase was related to the economy, is feeling the effects of the increase as she begins her last semester at Dordt. "I did notice a difference. Being it was my fourth year, I didn't want to look for other schools at this point and decided to endure another student loan."

While many students may think the tuition "hike" is a result of the current harsh state of the economy, they may be surprised to find out that the economy has had little impact on the increase.

The reason for the increase, according to Vice President of Business Affairs Arlan Nederhoff, is two-fold.

One main reason is that Dordt's healthcare insurance has undergone a 50 percent increase over the

past academic year. Dordt has always been self-insured, which is typically the cheaper option, but recent "unique" insurance claims by employees and students have caused Dordt's healthcare insurance costs to skyrocket.

In order to make up for this increase, more money has to be taken from tuition, as well as from employees.

"Our health insurance cost from the 2010-2011 school year to the 2011-2012 school year went up about 50 percent," said Nederhoff. "The insurance for the students went up, but we've also seen it as employers. The employees are paying more for their share of the premium."

Another reason for the increase in tuition has to do with the awards and student aid that Dordt gives out to incoming freshman.

Over the past few years, according to Nederhoff, Dordt has noticed that other competing colleges tend to give out larger scholarships to prospective students than Dordt does. In order for

Dordt to be able to present prospective students with larger scholarships, they had to increase the tuition.

"This year our tuition increase was right at 5 percent, but if you look at where we ended up net-tuition-wise, which is basically after we provide all the financial aid to students, we ended up probably with somewhere around a net-increase of 3 percent," said Nederhoff. "So yes, tuition went up about 5 percent, but Dordt actually got about 3 percent because we gave more dollars back to students in the form of financial aid."

Though the tuition cost is higher, prospective students are receiving more in scholarships than students have in the past.

"Students still like to look at that scholarship and say 'I'm getting more money to go [there], so that's where I'm going to go,'" said Nederhoff.

While incoming freshmen may be benefitting from more student-aid, returning student's financial aid remains the same for several reasons.



"Dordt doesn't reduce awards based on the fact that your high school GPA was 3.75 but your college GPA dropped to 3.4," said Nederhoff. "Likewise, we also don't increase awards when the scholarship grid is updated for a new freshman incoming class."

Though the increase may be emptying out student's banks, many still feel that Dordt is worth every penny.

"Dordt is a great college and I am fully confident I made the right decision in coming to Dordt," said Millage. "It is worth the price - for now - but if prices keep going up, people are going to shy

away."

While students and parents may be concerned about the growing tuition rates, the increases have been carefully examined and decided by multiple levels of administrators at Dordt College.

"We've had board members that push us as an administration to say 'is this a reasonable tuition increase and are you using the dollars wisely?'" said Nederhoff. "A lot of time and thought goes into building the budget and trying to make sure that we're being responsible stewards of the dollars."

Romney speaks in Orange City about job creation



Photo by Doug Burg

Kailee Adams
Guest Writer

GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney made a special appearance to a packed gym at Northwestern College on Friday, September 7th. Among the crowd were members of Dordt's Political Ac-

tion Committee. Upon his entrance, Romney said, "America is about to come roaring back," which was followed by a booming applause from his supporters.

Northwestern College experienced a great turnout for the Romney campaign. According to the Sioux

City Journal, "the campaign aides estimated the gym and overflow crowd was about 3,500 people."

Romney continued to impress the crowd by stating that President Obama "doesn't know what to do to make the American economy work," but Romney confidently told the crowd he knew what it would take to turn it around.

Enthusiastic cheers roared throughout the gymnasium as Romney introduced his five-step plan, in which 12 million jobs would be created to boost the crumbling American economy. His plan includes encouraging small business to thrive and grow by stating that, "regulations need to encourage small businesses, not discourage

them."

Romney also affirmed that when he is president he will stop the useless spending. He refers to the current \$16 trillion debt as morally incorrect. "I believe it is wrong to continually spend more money than we are taking in," said Romney.

Dordt's Political Action Committee (DPAC) members who attended the event were excited to be part of such an occasion in Northwest Iowa.

Emily Holz, a junior and member of DPAC was asked what she thought of the Romney rally. She said, "I thought it was very inspiring and thought provoking. I wish Dordt had advertised it a little more and cancelled classes to en-

courage students to go. Republican or Democrat, we need to know what exactly we are voting for."

Another member of DPAC, Dirk Oudman, gave his input about what he thought about Romney's visit to Orange City. "I was very impressed with his personal manner, and with his handshake," Oudman said. "I appreciated that he made an extra visit to the overflow room to visit with his supporters there. However, I felt that his speech could have had a little more depth about his plan for the future in America. I heard a lot of what Obama was doing wrong, but not what Romney would do right."

From DENIS stalking to DC stalking?

Hannah DeVries
Staff Writer

The newly fashioned website Dordt College Central, or DCC, has taken over Dordt's student internet. "DENIS stalking" is now a thing of the past, and while "DC Stalking" may not have the same ring, there were many reasons behind the switch.

While the original DENIS (Dordt Electronic News and Information System) site never really stopped evolving since its creation 6 years ago, Director of Computer Services Brian Van Donselaar said the main reason behind the switch was "to provide students and employees with a better system."

Director of PR/Marketing Communication Sonya Jongsma Knauss agreed that the website was greatly in need a change. "Essentially, DENIS was old, ugly, and long overdue for an update because parts of it had long outlived their usefulness and necessity."

So what does this new site deliver where DENIS came up short? Van Donselaar provided a list:

- The functionality of DENIS and My DENIS is

merged into one site that can be accessed from anywhere.

- It allows employees to easily keep the site up-to-date and view pages on as if they were a student, allowing them to provide better service.

- The site has been "flattened"—which means more content access with fewer clicks.

- A better layout for mobile devices.

- Better organization.

- Single sign-on

Despite the many changes and updates the new site brings, some students have found it difficult letting the old familiar DENIS go.

Senior and English writing major Alena De Young is one of these students. "At first I was really against it. I was indignant that DENIS had to be taken away," she commented.

Anna Visser, a Junior and English writing and music major, noticed a few of the discrepancies between the new website and the old. "The biggest thing is that stuff isn't always the same as they said it was going to be. Courses@dordt didn't change, the e-mail is still separate, and the directory is hard to use," she said.

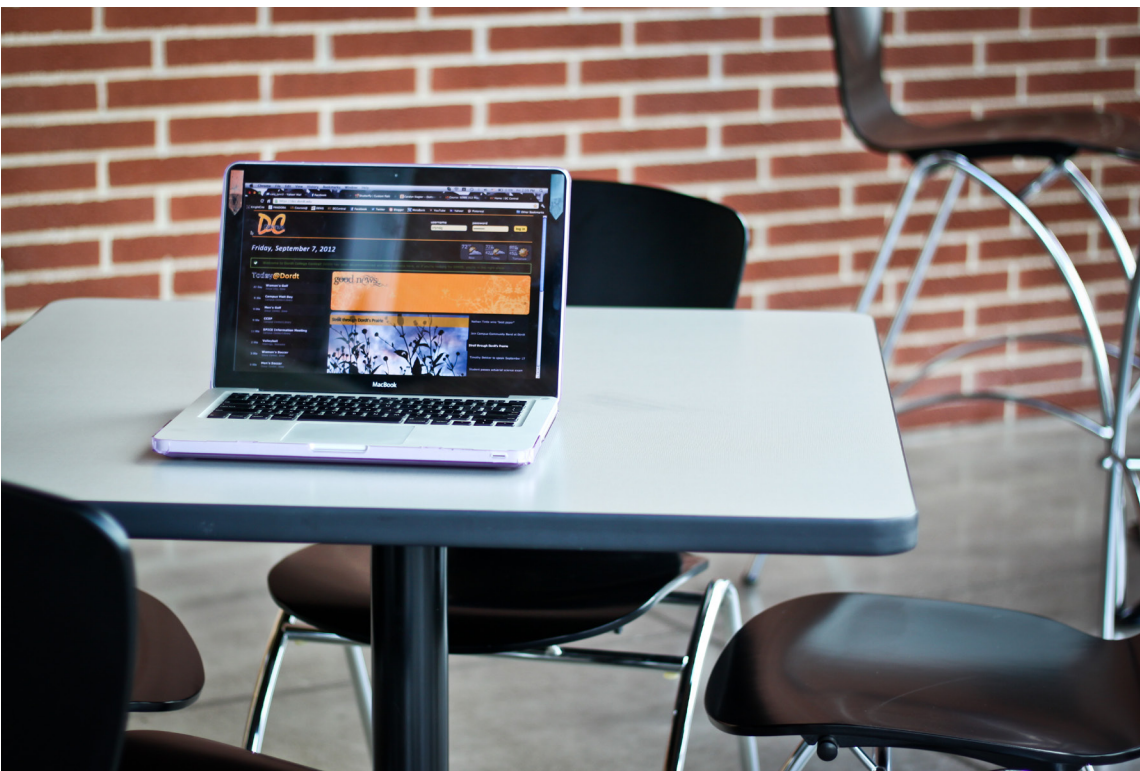


Photo by Aanna Stadem

And yet, work is still being done behind the scenes. "Things are still getting 'sorted out'," said Van Donselaar. Due to a shortage in staff, DCC is "not as polished as we would like it to be, nor is the product as complete as we would like it to be. We are actively developing the site," Van Donselaar commented, acknowledging that the process will be underway for at least the academic year.

As adjustments are made

and familiarity with the site grows, students admit that the change isn't all bad. "Now that I've used it for a while I like it," De Young admitted. "It's easy, and everything is where it needs to be. I came around to it."

"It's easy to use, but in the end there's still the learning curve," agreed Visser.

A few places to check out as changes continue to go into effect are the online directory, book listings, and document management.

At the end of the day, Van Donselaar says he believes the switch has been a worthwhile endeavor. "Hopefully that rings more true a year from now."

"I would like students to know that we built DCC to make it easier for them to get information they need," finished Van Donselaar. Any suggestions students may have for improving the site are welcome at brian.van-donselaar@dordt.edu.

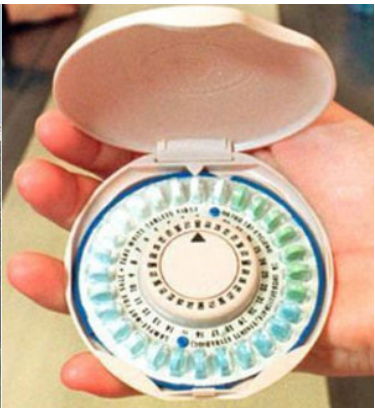
Dordt College protests contraception mandate



Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

Earlier this summer, Dordt College signed its name to a list of 149 Christian colleges, churches, outreaches, and magazines protesting a recent mandate in national health insurance policy. The policy guarantees women access to free pills often believed to cause early embryonic abortion.

According to the new policy, institutions with at least 150 employees are required to provide healthcare that offers birth control and contraceptive pills such as "the morning after" pill to employees free of charge. The policy, as released on whitehouse.gov, "exempts churches, other houses of worship, and similar organi-



zations from covering contraception on the basis of their religious objections." Religious colleges or other institutions, however, are not exempt.

Whitehouse.gov announced on February 10, 2012 that an "accommodation" for these institutions would be made: institutions with Christian beliefs would not be required "to provide, pay for or refer for contraception coverage," but employees would still be able to receive these free products directly from their insurance policy.

As a religious institution, Dordt receives the "contraception mandate accommodation," but the accommodation was not found acceptable by most religious

colleges.

"Its fundamental flaw is that the accommodation creates a two-tiered system of religious organizations—those which are deemed 'more' religious and are therefore exempted, and those which are deemed 'less' religious and are therefore only accommodated. The act of creating this distinction is unconstitutional," said Paul Corts, president of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU).

Dordt's own objection also takes issue with the two-tiered system. The letter takes issue with the accommodation because "only churches are accorded full protection of religious freedom."

Other Christian organizations taking this stance include Christianity Today, Wheaton College, The Navigators, and other faith based groups, according to Dordt's press release.

"What I resent is being forced into this predicament. I think Americans should be free to choose their own health care," said Dr. Mary

Dengler of the Dordt College English department. "We shouldn't have to ask for an exemption. The college should be able to decide which plan they want and not have to ask for special favors."

Dordt College also objected that the policy infringed upon Dordt's mission. The statement explained that its purpose was "to give young people an education that is Christian, not merely in the sense that devotional exercises are appended to the ordinary work of the college, but in the larger and deeper sense that all the class work, all the students' intellectual, emotional, and imaginative activities shall be permeated with the spirit and teaching of Christianity." Removing Dordt's ability to practice Christian action in its own financial affairs would remove Dordt's constitutional right to carry out its religious mission.

Whitehouse.gov describes the "contraception mandate" in a positive light, insisting that no religious boundaries are crossed and that "this new law will

save money for millions of Americans and ensure that Americans nationwide get the high-quality care they need to stay healthy." The government's statement online also said that "covering contraception is cost neutral since it saves money by keeping women healthy and preventing spending on other health services."

As of June 20, four Christian colleges have filed suit against the Department of Health and Human Services, according to the CCCU. These colleges include Colorado Christian University, Geneva College, Louisiana College, and Franciscan College.

Should the mandate not be revised after its year-long transitional period, many Christian colleges would be either forced to provide debatable healthcare or suffer civil disobedience suits.

More information on the Contraception Mandate can be found on CCCU.org and whitehouse.gov.

Professor Jeff Taylor represents Iowa at the Republican National Convention



Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

Dordt Political Science Professor Jeff Taylor recently attended the 40th Republican National Convention (RNC) as a voting delegate for the state of Iowa. No matter the outcome in November, the honor of being a part of our country’s

electoral process was not lost on Taylor. “Going to the national convention is kind of like going to the Super bowl of politics,” he said.

Taylor, who originally attended Northwestern College before teaching at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, has been a political activist for nearly all his life. He at-

tended the 1976 RNC as junior delegate while still in middle school.

“That was the last time a national convention had been that exciting. You didn’t know who was going to win,” Taylor said, referring to Gerald Ford’s narrow victory over Ronald Reagan for the Republican nod that year.

This time, however, Taylor had the opportunity to experience a more “behind the scenes” look at the convention. “I got to talk to figures that I admire on the convention floor,” he said. “It does give you an opportunity to rub shoulders with prominent people you wouldn’t normally meet.”

There were also downsides to experiencing the action firsthand. Taylor referenced the “packaged” quality of the speeches and presenters, “with the exception of Clint Eastwood.”

“I think often times the superficial aspects get too much time,” Taylor said. “At the

convention, they focused on how Mrs. Romney looked, what she was wearing. It’s mostly the packaging, but I’d like to see more content. I’d like to see more of that with the speeches. I wish the media would look a little deeper and more at the substance of things.”

However, the overall tone of the convention appeared to be one without controversy, according to Taylor. “There wasn’t a lot of controversy,” he said. “Everyone understood that Romney was the winner.”

The most tension came from an uncertainty over the outcome in November. “People said what they always say; that this is the most important election in our lifetime. A lot of Republicans are very fearful,” Taylor said. “I hope that Romney wins, however, I don’t think the sky is going to fall if he doesn’t. Usually the two parties choose middle of the road candidates. In reality, neither candidate is as bad as their opponents charge.”

Overall, Taylor remained positive about his experience, saying that he hoped to use it to motivate his students to become more involved in their local politics, regardless of party affiliation. He also pointed out that involvement doesn’t have to end just because the election is over.

“Get involved, vote, but it doesn’t end on election day,” he said. “You still need to be there to see that things get done...You’ve got to stay involved. Congress makes a difference. We’ve got to keep the pressure on.”

Most importantly, Taylor wants his students to realize that even at their age, there is much they can do to get involved. “There were delegates at the convention in their early 20s. It’s never too early to get involved. This is the perfect time.”

For more information about Sioux County politics visit: www.siouxcountygop.com or www.siouxcountydems.org

Not your typical registration

Adam McDonald
Editor

It may seem that bike registration is just another meaningless task that Dordt demands of their students, but bike registration benefits more students than it seems.

“Students have been known to steal unlocked bikes and leave them across campus. Without the registration tags, we don’t know which bike belongs to which student,” Physical Plant Secretary Cindy Groeneweg said.

If a student decides not to get a bike tag, they won’t get a ticket like you would on your car. The tags are not required, but are recommended for the benefit of the students.

If a bike is stolen and left anywhere on campus, maintenance will pick it up, but without a name on the bike, it’s impossible to find out who the bike belongs to. “It’s a shame because we end up giving away really nice bikes,” said Groeneweg.

Groeneweg said they have found bikes all over town. “We’ve found bikes in trees and even uptown in people’s yards. It’s nice to know who



Photo by Anna Stadem

owns what so we don’t end up giving a bike away at the beginning of the summer.”

Groeneweg says maintenance tries to alert the students before they give bikes away, but sometimes students just don’t claim it. The cost is \$15 if students don’t claim it by deadline or if they don’t have a blue sticker.

However, the biggest problem maintenance encounters with students’ bikes is where students leave them. “The biggest hassle of all is grounds,” said Groeneweg. “When bikes are left in the grass we have to

mow around them and in the winter time, it’s not uncommon to run over bikes with snow blowers.”

The blue sticker on a bike lets maintenance employees know which students are using their bikes in the winter. It’s important that bikes have blue stickers, especially during heavy snow fall due to snow removal. If it doesn’t, maintenance will cut it loose and charge the owner. The maintenance department houses bikes for free during the winter.

New Staff List

Compiled by Hannah DeVries



Tara Boer, instructor of social work.

Dr. Walker Reid Cosgrove, assistant professor of history.

Dr. Scott Culpepper, associate professor of history.

Dr. Robbin Eppinga, assistant professor of biology.

David Griffith, instructor of business administration.

Rikki Heldt, instructor of language studies.

John MacInnis, instructor of music.

Dr. Joshua Matthews, assistant professor of English.

Dr. Mark McCarthy, associate professor of history.

David Mulder, instructor of education.

Joel Sikkema, instructor of engineering and construction management.

Josiah Wallace, assistant professor of theatre arts.

Alisa Den Hartog, alumni and parent relations coordinator.

Gabe Eliserio, assistant football coach, strength and conditioning coach, and instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department.

Adam Langvardt, assistant football coach, strength and conditioning coordinator, and instructor in the Health and Human Performance Department.

Brenda Schaap, bookstore coordinator.

Audrey Schuller, student accounts manager.

Shar Tubergen, bookstore coordinator.

Eric Tudor, admissions counselor.

Greg Youngblood, head football coach.

Tammy Zevenbergen, bookstore coordinator.

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Features

Student Jacob Richards takes on NASA

Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Dordt Junior Jacob Richards recieved the opportunity if a lifetime this past summer when he accepted an internship position at a NASA facility in Huntsville, Alabama.

Richards, a Nebraska native, is a mechanical engineering major at Dordt College. He has always been interested in aerospace engineering, a specific field of study Dordt does not currently offer. Therefore, Richards decided to pursue his academic dreams on his own this past summer by applying for an aerospace engineering internship with NASA.

With the Coopers—some supportive family friends of Richards’—living near one of NASA’s centers located in Huntsville, Alabama, the decision to apply for the internship simply made sense to Richards. He ap-

plied for one spot along with fifty other applicants and was excited to find out he was selected for the position at the Marshall Space Flight Center.

At the end of May, Richards moved down to Alabama and spent the rest of the summer working on a team with fourteen other interns, all of whom were also college students.

Although the interns worked as a team, Richards said that each intern’s personal responsibility played a huge role. “Basically, we had to start and finish our own project,” Richards said. “We told machinists what to do and just had to get it done.” Each intern also had a mentor who would regularly check in with their progress on the project.

Richard’s own project was research and development on metal joining. Every intern’s project was a small part of NASA’s most recent project, the



Photo by Anna Stadem

Space Launch System (SLS), which he described as a “plan to take over the space shuttle” and continue growth in “out of earth orbit.”

Richard’s internship was a typical 40-hour-week, full-time job, but he was happily surprised to receive a salary, and called the internship much more “professional-like” than he’d ever experienced. The internship was approximately two months long.

Although Richards could have chosen many other journeys for his junior summer, he is confident that interning for NASA was both a great decision and a blessing. Richards said it was simply “cool to be a part of [the entire NASA organization] and be around all the history and prestige.”

International Introduction: Meet Jeremy Budi

For years, international students have felt blessed to call Dordt home. However, language, other cultural barriers, and even apathy often prevent these students from being warmly welcomed into the Dordt student community. In this new feature section, we hope to introduce the Dordt community to a different international student each week with the hope of bridging the gap between international and non-international students that is often so evident around campus. Finally, it is our hope that this section will remind the community of God’s call to have a heart for ALL of His nations.



Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Meet Jeremy Budi. Budi is 20-years-old and fluent in both English and Bahasa, the language of his home city of Tangerang, Indonesia. Chinese in ethnicity, Budi is currently in his third and last year at Dordt. Budi is majoring in

Agriculture: Business, which is also the main reason for his journey from Indonesia to Dordt.

When Curtis Taylor, Dordt’s Director of International and Off-Campus programs, visited Budi’s high school in Indonesia, Budi realized that Dordt was one of

very few Christian colleges with an agriculture program. His decision was quickly made, and Budi graduated high school and traveled to the United States for the second time in his life in August, 2010.

Budi has been involved on campus in a variety of ways during his time at Dordt. He greatly enjoys listening to music, and has been able to play the keyboard for both a traveling worship team and Wellspring services. In addition, Budi has helped lead Prayer for the Nations, Students Without Borders, and the North Hall Council. This year, Budi is the coordinator of the Community Outreach Program.

After graduation, Budi hopes to attend graduate school for business and eventually run a big-scale Christian agricultural company in Indonesia or the United States. He describes his future dream as the development of “the Chick-fil-A of agriculture.”

Budi says that worldview conflicts were his greatest source of culture shock upon coming to Dordt. Although Budi does not wish to offend the American culture or Dordt community, he does admit that “people back home are friendlier.” Budi contrasts Indonesia to America in that America is an “individualistic” society and Indonesia is “collective.” “People are friendlier because they don’t care about themselves as much,” Budi shared.

Dordt College has also been a place of immense spiritual growth for Budi, something he refers to as the “highlight of his time at Dordt.” At Dordt, he has learned to be intentional about his beliefs, emphasize the importance of glorifying God through everything, and connect everything back to the Bible. Budi also enjoys the free Christian resources—like good sermons and music—that are more available in the U.S. than in Indonesia.

Finally, Budi shared some advice with non-international students at Dordt. While Budi acknowledges that “cultural differences are inevitable” and are the “way God wants his church to complement each other,” there are also great similarities. One great similarity he noticed between Indonesia and Dordt is the desire and enjoyment of “cultivating relationship and companionship with each other.” Budi suggests welcoming international students with God’s love by “sincerely caring about what’s going on in our lives—on a deep level.”

The entire community of God’s kingdom and people clearly exists all over the world. From acceptance to friendship, the lessons, cultures, and learning international students bring to Dordt College are definitely something the campus and community simply would not be the same without.

Change



Alex Urdike
Columnist

Change: It's a word known exceptionally well by students here at Dordt, and it can be quite scary. Freshman students arrive on campus, and their whole world changes. Sophomores come back to campus for the first time as non-freshmen, and they immediately notice the change that inevitably ensues when coming back instead of coming to. Juniors change where they live as they graduate to apartment life (and with it, all the extra responsibilities that are amassed). And of course, there are the seniors, whose whole perspective changes as the looming end to a school year ceases to represent the need to find a summer job, but rather morphs into the gargantuan need to find a life.

I am no exception to this rule of change, although my change represents something different than the need to find a job . . . or a wife for that matter. Yes, I have no idea what I will be doing for a living after I graduate. And I have no idea which terribly attractive actress or musician I'm going to marry (right now I'm thinking Zooey Deschanel). But these changes aren't necessarily scaring me. Maybe that's because I'm not smart enough to grasp the magnitude of what being a homeless, single man truly entails. I mean, it wouldn't be the first time I wasn't smart enough to grasp something – today I had to ask for help just to unlock the blade on a radial arm saw. But I like to think it's something a little different. I like to think that it is the work God has done in my life.

And that's the change I'm talking about. Last year, I wrote the "what if" column, and I loved it. But I always questioned whether writing articles about crazy "what ifs" was the best use of my talents to further God's kingdom. I realize that there is most definitely something to be said about using your talents to God's glory, no matter the manner in which it is done; that not everything has to be directly related to God and our faith. But I just always wondered if I could use my column to speak on slightly more serious things than a theory of what would happen if Martin Luther hadn't been able to find a nail (although the consequences were quite dire).

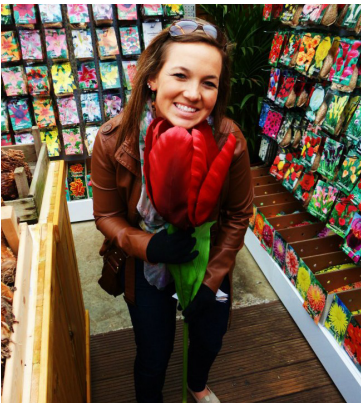
So I've come to a conclusion; and now that I'm a senior, the conclusions I come to matter! I can't stop being funny – it's kind of my thing. It would be like Rocky Balboa deciding to take up ballet, or Elmer Fudd actually killing Bugs Bunny. It's just weird and unnatural, kind of like Steve Buscemi's face. But no longer will I hypothesize on random world events that will probably never happen. Instead, I'm going to take this wonderful chance God has given me to write this column, and use it to drop some spiritual knowledge on you . . . on a biweekly basis.

Liberation and Justice for All

You can't expect a person to miss America when they're left worn out, bitter, and ready for a change, especially when what they were about to experience was a life-altering semester of meeting new people, new cultures, and traveling as much of Europe as their bank account allowed. And miss home, I did not.

Leaving home has always been easy for me, and going back has always been hard. I don't get homesick, and I don't frequently miss people. I don't get mad, and I am not easily offended, but if one thing rubs me the wrong way it's this: narrow-minded, proud, arrogant, hypocrites. As an American, I got a lot of beef (figuratively, not literally-meat's expensive overseas) for being an American. When asking northern Europeans what they think about Americans, the same answers kept coming up: loud, fat, and dumb. Some may argue that's because they met this loud, curvy American in the wrong settings, but I would argue that they are fairly accurate.

I'm not going to sit here and lecture you all about how much better Europe is than America. If you want that, you can add me on Facebook, or follow me on Twitter, or visit my spectacular apartment with a great view of the soccer boys playing leap frog from time to time.



Jennifer Van Der Hoek
Columnist

Don't get me wrong; I love the way I was raised and the community I am a part of, but there are some things I don't love. Coming back from a semester abroad, my grandma told me that I had been "liberated." At first, I was offended, but then I realized what a compliment it was. Maybe it wasn't meant to be, but here's how I chose to take it. Being abroad liberated me from the sheltered, conservative clique I have been a part of for far too long, and allowed me the opportunity to gain life experiences most people only dream of; to exercise my freedom and practice my dignity in a safe environment, where making mistakes is a part of the learning process, and a reason for people to seek change, not comparisons and harsh judgments on others.

Being a foreigner in a country with liberal morals and lifestyles seemed like a fun experience to me, but I know to many—probably even some of you reading this—this experience sent me off the deep end, and I'm here to share with you the experiences I endured and lessons I learned that give me every reason to believe that if my "liberation" is reason to condemn my lifestyle, I'm ashamed to consider myself a member and a representative of this community. I'll be the first to admit that I've made my fair share of poor decisions, but I will also be the first to admit that there is no point in time in my life that I was not where I was needed, doing what I needed, learning what I needed, and growing as a person and as a Christian. Had I stuck around in the same, sheltered community forever, I wouldn't have learned half the things I learned overseas. While I thank the Reformed community for giving me the standards, support, and encouragement I have needed, they would mean nothing if I couldn't have shaped them and shared them in the community and environment I was given last semester, those of which I will be sharing with you throughout this column.

Kids say the Darndest Things!



Rachel Mulder
Columnist

"It's not fun to be a servant to other people, but it's fun to be a servant to God"

As an Education major I spend a lot of time with kids. I babysit whenever I have free time, I work with them at my church, and this past summer I worked with preschool students as a Park & Recreation leader. I also love to laugh, and there is lots of laughter to be had when I spend time with these children. Kids say an endless amount of funny things, and I'm sure most of you have experienced that.

The quote above is something I overheard recently from a little girl. It was her response to a story in which people weren't appreciative of something that was done for them. I tend to agree with her and think many of us would, because it isn't always fun to serve people who don't appreciate it, but God calls us to do his work anyway. It doesn't matter if we get praise from people on earth, because God blesses us richly when we glorify Him through our service.

Deuteronomy 10:12 says, "What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul."

You might feel like you get lectured enough about finding opportunities to get involved on campus and in the community, but I'm going to chime in and tell you that it really is so important. It took me a while to realize that. You have so many chances to go out and serve—look around, seek out places that need your help.

Although this little girl may not think so, I believe it can be fun to serve others. This is true, especially on PLIA. Last year was my first time on PLIA, and I loved it! It is such a fun time to get to know new people, travel somewhere you haven't been before, and serve our Lord!

Not only does God bless those who work hard and serve Him, but He has given us gifts that we are supposed to use. Romans 12:6-7 says, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us . . . if it is serving, then serve." On this same topic 1 Peter 4:10 states, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

Take time to love others, serve others, and you will be blessed.

Independent is the new red...and blue

Politics is one subject that can turn a friendly conversation into an eruption of over-glorified cliché spitting and declaring one party as the Alpha and the Omega. I only say this because, as of late, and in the light of the presidential race, I've begun to rethink all of my nearly dogmatic stances on political issues.

For my entire life, I have been a Republican. A chew spittin', gun shootin, Buck Knife totin', red-blooded 'Merican. Or at least that's what those ol' Liberals thought of me. And that was exactly the problem. By declaring myself a Republican, I automatically believed that everything wrong in this country could be blamed on all the hippies and homosexuals in the Democrat party. And conversely, all the Democrats saw me, as well as the rest of the Republican party, as the bigot cowboys driving this country to hell with their hatred for gays, minorities, and women.

So essentially, the "if you're not with us, you're against us" idea is burned deep into the psyches of both political parties. Now, that's fine for the parties themselves and all of their disciples, but where does that leave the ones caught in the crossfire? The independent, unpredictable wild stallions



Ryan Lapadula
Columnist

that elude any doctrinal lassoing by the political parties are the last remaining breath of the American spirit.

The Independents don't have a mask they wear to declare themselves faithful followers of some think tank; rather they wear their own faces while the Elephants and The Donkeys hide their expressionless mugs from themselves.

But the curse of the Independents is that they won't ever be truly represented in the political realm because, unlike the established parties, Independents are all separate thinking individuals that can range from libertarians to communists. However, Independents have been stripped of their individualism and mashed into a conglomerate of non-labeled

fence balancers.

The idea of a third party in the political system would offer an avenue for Independents to be heard. However, this idea might pose a threat to the independency of the Independents. I believe that this third leg would siphon some of the weight from the first two legs and show people that political issues are not all yes or no.

While some Independents might claim that they don't want some political party to put a mask on them, most would agree that a third party's power of voice would be worth buying into a group that might not fully reciprocate their views.

There remains one problem: the Electoral College. With the way that this system is set up, the possibility of having a third party to bring balance to the force is out of the question. And so the tragic ballad of the Independent plays on into the foggy night with no sign of a rising sun.

Next issue: Down With The Electoral College!

Sports

New coaches, new season, same outlook

Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

Pads are strapped and helmets snapped as Dordt Defender football is underway in its first season with Greg Youngblood at the head of the team. Coach Youngblood was hired in December of 2011 after former head coach John Heavner, the founding head coach of the program, resigned from the position.

“I was interested in this position because I liked the Christian environment that Dordt offered. I knew this school was a place where you could recruit high academic and high character players,” said Youngblood.

Coach Youngblood isn’t the only new face on the coaching staff. Gabe Eliserio was hired earlier this year to replace Bill Bauer as defensive coordinator. While this is Eliserio’s first position as coordinator, he isn’t unfamiliar with Dordt. In his first stint on Dordt’s coaching staff, he was

a Graduate Assistant, and the two positions aren’t entirely different.

“Much of the direction and philosophy of the football program are the same. However, the main differences between the two positions are the styles & schemes of the offense and defense,” said Eliserio. “One nice difference now is the older players on the team. My first time here, the oldest guys we had here were 19, maybe 20 years old. That makes a difference in competition.”

Before Eliserio came to Dordt the first time around, he acquired a master’s degree in education and sports administration from East Central University (Oklahoma) and a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Sterling College. Before becoming defensive coordinator, he spent two years coaching defensive secondary and special teams at Sterling College.

This year’s team is led by



Photo by Anna Stadem

four captains; Jordan Huisman and Owen Reinalda representing the offensive side, and Seth Vande Voort and Jon Leutchens for the defense. All four of the players are upperclassmen with multiple years of experience under their belt. This experience will be valuable, especially when playing in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC). As usual, the GPAC will boast

multiple teams in the national Top-25.

Regular season competition began on September 1 with a road trip to Waldorf. After a hard fought game, the Defenders ended on the low side, losing 43-7. This past week was the home opener for the team against Hastings. A strong defensive showing by Dordt kept them running the whole game, but a late

touchdown pulled Hastings away to a 20-7 victory. This weekend they take a road trip to Fremont, Nebraska to take on Midland Lutheran, and back to Nebraska to play Concordia. Dordt’s next home game is against Briar Cliff on September 29.

Soccer Highlights



Photo by Anna Stadem

Current GPAC results

Women

- Morningside 0-0/2-1-1
- Doane 0-0/3-2
- Mount Marty 0-0/2-2
- Northwestern 0-0/1-2-1
- Briar Cliff 0-0/1-3-1
- Dordt 0-0/0-3-1
- Nebraska Wesleyan 0-0/0-3-1
- Midland 0-0/0-5-1
- Dakota Wesleyan 0-0/0-1
- Concordia 0-0/0-3
- Hastings 0-0/0-3

Men

- Concordia 0-0/4-1
- Dordt 0-0/3-1
- Northwestern 0-0/3-2
- Hastings 0-0/2-2
- Midlad 0-0/2-2-2
- Nebraska Wesleyan 0-0/1-2-1
- Mount Marty 0-0/1-3-1
- Dakota Wesleyan 0-0/1-4
- Briar Cliff 0-0/0-4-1
- Doane 0-0/0-4-1
- Morningside 0-0/0-3

Ask an Athlete



Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

Name: Erin Francis
Class Year: Junior
Major: Digital Media
Sport(s) Involved: Football/ Track
Position(s): Slot in football, hurdler in track.
How did you first become involved in sports? I’ve always loved football, and playing pee-wee football when I was like 7 made me really love the game more. From then on, when I was in school, I was always part of athletics, and it just took off from there.
Why did you come to Dordt? The main appeal was the fact that I was part of the class that was supposed to come in and turn around the football program, which is what I helped to do in high school.
Best class you’ve ever taken at Dordt and why? My Intro to Film class mainly because it’s for my major and I love camera work.
What makes you stand out on campus? Dunno, maybe my smile?
What’s your favorite thing to do in your free

time? Listen to music, watch Community/Regular Show/ Adventure Time, and play Super Smash Brothers, even though I’m not that good at it...
Best movie of all time? Pulp Fiction. Hands down. No question.
What is the first thing you would change at Dordt? Location. Put it somewhere on the beach, or in a city, or somewhere where it doesn’t smell bad.
No expense, paid for in full, where do you travel to? Japan, because I’m an otaku (Japanese nerd).
Keeping on the all paid for, if you could do anything for free, anywhere, what would it be? As deep in the ocean as I could go in a submarine, assuming I don’t die.
What was your favorite thing to do over the summer? I went to A-Kon in Dallas and it was insane. So many costumes...and Turquoise Jeep.
What came first; the chicken or the egg? They were both placed down at the same time.
One celebrity date; who do you chose? LUCY LIU! Because she’s gorgeous and smart. Have you seen Charlie’s Angels and Kill Bill??

Arts and Entertainment

More than a musician: Dale Grotenhuis

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

If anyone mentioned the name Dale Grotenhuis to a random student on campus, chances are the only information known about the former music aficionado is that he recently passed away. This is, of course, true – on August 17, Dale Grotenhuis, former professor of music here at Dordt College, passed away after a short battle with cancer. But it would be a shame if that was all students knew of Dale Grotenhuis. Luckily, Professor Grotenhuis’ grandson, Jonny, is a student here at Dordt, and was able to offer a first-hand perspective on the former Dordt great.

Dordt began as a two-year institution, and from the very beginning was competing with Northwestern to obtain students. Luckily, only a few years after the college opened, BJ Haan contacted Grotenhuis and asked

him to be a part of the music department. Grotenhuis accepted and soon began transforming the department into a shining beacon for all those interested in studying music. Even today, Dordt’s music department is one of the school’s most well-respected and successful programs.

Grotenhuis was more than a music professor at Dordt. For 35 years he published more than 260 pieces of music. He was a man who put his heart and soul into promoting Dordt College and its music department. In fact, Grotenhuis was, according to his grandson, senior Johnny Grotenhuis, “a huge promoter.” Grotenhuis would go around to small towns in the Midwest, putting on concerts in order to promote the school. “He was a very, very, very hard worker,” said Grotenhuis. Without him, Dordt may have been a very different place.

Of course, Calvin College would also be a different place without him. As a first semester freshman, Grotenhuis wrote the alma mater that Calvin still uses to this day. And if that wasn’t enough, Grotenhuis also wrote Dordt’s alma mater, along with directing multiple choirs and bands throughout his tenure here at the college.

Many have lost the opportunity to know the great Professor G (as his students called him), but his memory will always live on. He was a hard worker, a gifted musician, but even more importantly, a man who loved people, loved students, and loved doing backflips on the tour bus.

New theater professor has many “roles”



Lauren Bird
Staff Writer

If, in your time at Dordt College, you decide to enter the theater department in the classroom building, you are almost certain to be welcomed by many enthusiastic students and professors. Among this lively group, there is a new but equally eager face. This is the face of Josiah Wallace, Assistant Professor of Theater.

Professor Wallace is new to the theater department at Dordt. He is the sole professor of each of the three theater courses that Dordt is currently offering. Being the only professor, he teaches classes in theater literature, performance, and the technical aspects of theater production.

Despite his many responsibilities, he has much help. Noemi De Weerd serves as the de-

partment assistant, and according to Professor Wallace, “she is vital.”

Though there are no / Mainstage productions going on this semester, Wallace and De Weerd have several projects in store. Included in these projects is something titled “Theater 128”, in which students will get a hands-on experience in theater, and a production directed by senior Mia Kornelis later this semester.

Professor Wallace’s passion for theatre is evident. He attended Seattle Pacific University, where he developed this passion for theater and a desire to teach. “There’s something about the coming together of so many skill sets that intrigues me,” Wallace said. “Being the only person here is a way for me to use all the skills involved in theater.”

Students have already

welcomed Professor Josiah Wallace into the family here at Dordt, and eagerly wait to see what his influence will produce this year in terms of entertainment.

Photo by Aanna Stadem

Prince’s art tells stories all around campus



Photo by Aanna Stadem

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

Steve A. Prince visited Dordt’s campus in early September to speak for the First Monday Series, give an evening lecture, present an art demonstration, and speak to a senior art class.

Prince’s morning lecture was titled “Old Testament: Old Soil, New Spirit.” His more detailed evening lecture was titled “Second Line: The Art of Social Justice?”

“Steve is one of the finest storytellers I’ve ever heard...particularly interesting is that he tells his narratives through visual metaphors that are highly unique and fresh,” said art professor, David Versluis.

Roughly eighteen students attended Prince’s art demonstration. They experimented with a print-making process called Disorientation. The results are on display in the Art department of the classroom building.

“His command of studio process and technique is self-evident in his art, but his teaching style is sensitive to the range and skills of students in the class,” said Jake Van Wyk, Dordt art professor.

Prince also spoke with art students in their senior seminar class. He gave them ten tips to stay

familiar with art after graduation. Liesl Scholten, senior art student, believed his most important tip was “to let God speak and guide us through every decision.”

Originally from New Orleans, Prince is an artist and assistant professor of art at Montgomery College in Germantown, Maryland, and is the founder of One Fish Studio. The name for this studio came from Matthew 4:19.

“Steve’s abilities and talents are amazing and we were very fortunate to have him on campus,” said Versluis.

Prince’s exhibit, “One Fish: Old Testament,” will be in the college’s Campus Center Art Gallery through October 2.



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Amusements

Feature Photo



"Welcome back to the Midwest--maybe this summer you enjoyed mountains or oceans, but you can never beat an Iowa sunset!" -- Photo by Anna Stadem

Editors' Note

**Adam McDonald
and Kelly Zatlin,
Editors**

We would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves as the current editors of the *Dordt Diamond*. We are Kelly Zatlin, Head Editor, and Adam McDonald, Co-Editor.

Our goal this year is to publish a newspaper that is informative and relevant to issues and events happening on campus. We also hope to become a paper that takes a step off Dordt's campus in order to localize major events taking place in God's world. Instead of simply clipping the Pizza Ranch coupon, stay for a while and learn what students and professors on campus are up to, what decisions administration make, and what affects you directly as students, on a national and local level. We appreciate feedback, so don't be shy; shoot us an e-mail at diamond@dordt.edu. If there is a campus topic or issue you would like us to report on, let us know so that we can inform you to the best of our ability.

Also, please take time to visit our newly-launched, online newspaper at www.dordtdiamond.wordpress.com.

Thank you for supporting *The Diamond* and the staff of this bi-weekly publication.

Your editors,

Kelly and Adam

Pretentious Paradoxes

Compiled by Adam McDonald, Co-Editor

Ever hear someone say something and it just turns into a loop argument like "Which came first? The chicken or the egg?" We obviously know it was the chicken, but what about the ones that don't have such an easy answer.

Try to wrap your brain around these paradoxes:

- 1) Can you save money by spending it?
- 2) I'm a compulsive liar- am I lying when I say that?
- 3) Nobody goes to that restaurant because it is too crowded.
- 4) The next statement is true. The previous statement is false.
- 5) A male barber shaves all and only those men who do not shave themselves. Does he shave himself?
- 6) What would happen if Pinocchio said "My nose will grow"?
- 7) Can God make a burrito so hot that He himself cannot touch it?
- 8) If there is an exception to every rule, then every rule must have at least one exception; the exception to this one being that it has no exception. There's always an exception to the rule, except to the exception of the rule—which is, in of itself, an accepted exception of the rule.
- 9) It is opposite day today.
- 10) A law student agrees to pay his teacher after winning his first case. The teacher then sues the student (who has not yet won a case) for payment.

Red Box Review: *Age of the Dragons*

Skyrim, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Eragon*, and *Age of the Dragons*. It seems we just can't escape from the fantastical creature: the Dragon. It captivates our imagination and thrills our senses. When I saw *Age of the Dragons*, I was very excited to see yet another interpretation of dragons in our culture. However, this excitement was short-lived once I pressed "play."

Age of the Dragons is a modern rendition of *Moby Dick*, but instead of hunting the great white whale, Ishmael and Ahab are hunting the "Great, White Dragon." I'm not joking. They didn't even give the dragon its own unique title. They just ripped it straight from the novel. And how I wish this was the least of the movie's problems.

In this version, dragons are just wild animals. No intelligence whatsoever. In *Skyrim* and *Eragon*, they



**Adam McDonald
Co-Editor**

have their own culture and language. But in *Age of the Dragons*, they are no more than scaly lizards with wings that mindlessly breathe fire. Maybe it's just me, but the thought of an intelligent dragon is way more captivating than a mindless beast.

Next were the special effects. However, I'm not so sure why you would

call them "special" in this movie. It looked like the cheap animation of a poorly designed computer program. I would tell you more, but that would mean picturing it in my head again. I'd rather not.

One of the most surprising things in this movie was that for a film with many no name actors, it starred Danny Glover as Captain Ahab. You may remember him as the actor who voiced Jethro in *Prince of Egypt* and played Colonel Isaac Johnson in *Shooter*.

Overall, don't rent this movie. Granted, I'm sure most of you had it on your "must see" list, but I'm here to tell you don't. Please. I'm serious. I'm not teasing. Just let it sit in Redbox until it's replaced by another Jennifer Aniston chick flick. She's bound to have another soon.



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